



3100 Channel Drive, Suite 300 • Juneau AK 99801 • (907) 463-3488 • Fax (907) 463-3489
E-mail: iuneauchamber@eci.net • icc@alaska.com • Web site: <http://www.iuneauchamber.com>

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February 8, 2011

Alaska State Legislature
Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol Room 111
Juneau AK, 99801

RE:SB18

Dear Senator Stevens,

It is my pleasure to tell you what a great job your aide Tim Lamkin did last week at chamber lunch presenting information on SB18 extending the second session of the Legislature back to 120 days.

I have represented the Juneau Chamber of Commerce as well as served on the Marine Transportation Advisory Board for the past 6 years. I have had the honor of visiting many legislators during this time regarding issues important to my community as well as all other communities served by the Alaska Marine Highway.


Before the legislative sessions were shortened to 90 days I could call on not only my delegation but legislators from around the state and felt confident that they would have time to hear what I had to say.

Since the change from 120 to 90 days I seldom go directly to any of my legislators during session. If I do I must be prepared to chase them down the hall or if I get lucky I might get 5 minutes of their time. Legislators and their staff seem to be racing from one meeting to the next. I can only imagine how difficult this must be for folks traveling to Juneau to see their legislators especially when I know legislators want to spend time with their constituents.

In conclusion, we whole heartedly support SB18 and hope that at least one year of each session is extended to 120 days. The ideal would be to revert back to 120 days every year.

Thank you so much for your service to the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,



Cathie Roemmich, CEO
Juneau Chamber of Commerce